

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209055

FOLLOWING REPEAT WARSAW 7145 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 17.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7145

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCHUM, UN, US, PL
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION TO POLAND ON WORLD CONFERENCE
TO COMBAT RACISM

REF: STATE 204786

1. I CALLED AUGUST 16 ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER KULAGA,
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UN-RELATED AFFAIRS IN THE MFA, AND
DELIVERED AN AIDE MEMOIRE (TEXT BASED ON PARA 1 REFTTEL)
GIVING THE REASONS WHY THE US IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE
WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
NOW UNDERWAY IN GENEVA. I ALSO GAVE A BRIEF ORAL EXPLANA-
TION, DRAWING ON THE MAIN POINTS OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE.

2. KULAGA OBSERVED THAT THE GOP WAS AWARE OF THE US
POSITION ON THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE, WITH WHICH THE POLES
DIFFERED. HE RECALLED THAT POLAND HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF
THE 1975 UNGA RESOLUTION WHICH, HE NOTED, HAD EMERGED FROM
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ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION OF A REPORT ON ISRAELI TREATMENT OF
THE INHABITANTS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. NEVERTHELESS,
HE CONTINUED, POLAND WAS "NOT EAGER" TO SEE THE ISSUE
RAISED AT THE CONFERENCE, WHERE THE GOP'S MAIN
OBJECTIVE WAS TO STRESS THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
APARTHEID, " ESPECIALLY BUT NOT ONLY IN SOUTH
AFRICA." THE GOP, KULAGA SAID, HAD NO INFORMATA-

TION FROM GENEVA ON ANY PROPOSALS TO "REITERATE" THE 1975 RESOLUTION AT THE CONFERENCE, BUT IT COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THE MATTER MIGHT BE RAISED. HE THOUGHT THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE, AT LEAST, PROBABLY WOULD COME UP IN DEBATE WHERE THE POLISH DELEGATION PLANNED TO TAKE THE FLOOR THIS WEEK TO SPEAK ON THE "MOST BURNING ISSUES" BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, ABOVE ALL SOUTH AFRICA. (COMMENT: KULAGA DID NOT SAY THE POLISH DELEGATION WOULD NOT ADDRESS THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE IF SOME OTHER DELEGATION BROUGHT IT UP FIRST.)

3. RESPONDING TO THE LAST POINT IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE, KULAGA SAID THE GOP ALSO WAS AWARE OF US EFFORTS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, BUT THOUGHT THOSE EFFORTS ONLY COMPLICATED AN ALREADY VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. "OUR POSITIONS," HE SAID, "ARE FAR APART."

4. I REPLIED THAT IT IS HARD TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHILE THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE CLOUDS THE AIR. THIS ISSUE, AS A MATTER OF FACT, HAD BEEN INJECTED INTO THE CONFERENCE BY THE 1975 RESOLUTION; WE NOW WERE CONCERNED THAT THE RESOLUTION COULD BE GIVEN FURTHER LIFE AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. EVEN THOUGH THE GOP

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AGREED WITH THE RESOLUTION, I SUGGESTED, PERHAPS THE POLISH DELEGATION COULD DISCOURAGE OTHERS FROM PRESSING THE ISSUE IN THE CONFERENCE CONTEXT. I UNDERSCORED THE INTENSITY OF US PUBLIC REACTION AGAINST THE RESOLUTION, POINTING OUT THAT OUR NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE WAS PURSUANT TO A CONGRESSIONAL INJUNCTION, NOT JUST AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH DECISION. I REGRETTED OUR INABILITY TO TAKE PART IN THE CONFERENCE, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE WELCOME IF THE US COULD PARTICIPATE IN LEGIMATE UN ACTIVITIES AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION.

5. LULAGA SAID HE WOULD TAKE NOTE OF WHAT I HAD SAID AND OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE. HE REITERATED THAT THE GOP WAS NOT INTERESTED IN EMPHASIZING THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE SINCE ITS MAIN CONCERN WAS SOUTH AFRICA. IT WAS THE GOP'S VIEW, KULAGA CONCLUDED, THAT THE PRESENT CONFERENCE, AS PART OF THE DECADE AGAINST RACISM, SHOULD PLAY A ROLE, AND US NON-PARTICIPATION WAS REGRETTABLE (JULAGA NOTED IN PASSING THAT THE US WAS JOINED BY ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA IN ITS ABSENCE FROM THE CONFERENCE).

6. I REPLIED THAT WE ALSO REGRETTED NOT BEING ABLE TO PARTICIPATE , ESPECIALLY SINCE THE USG THOUGHT MUCH OF WHAT THE UN IS DOING TO COMBAT RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IS USEFUL AND WORTHY OF SUPPORT. HOWEVER, ANY EXACERBATION OF THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE WOULD MAKE IT THAT MUCH HARDER TO MUSTER SUCH SUPPORT ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

7. COMMENT: FROM WHAT KULAGA SAID, I DO NOT THINK THE POLES ARE MUCH INCLINED TOWARD ACTIVISM IN EITHER DIRECTION ON THE ZIONISM-RACISM ISSUE AT THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THEY MIGHT BE WILLING TO ADVISE
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CERTAIN MILITANT DELEGATIONS TO MUTE THE ISSUE, IN THE INTEREST OF AVERTING A POPULAR REACTION WHICH COULD AFFECT US ENGAGEMENT IN, AND SUPPORT FOR OTHER UN ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THE POLES TAKE A GREATER INTEREST. EVEN SUCH A LOW-KEY LOBBYING EFFORT, HOWEVER, WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE POSSIBLE ONLY IF THE SOVIETS DID NOT OBJECT. SCHAUFELLE
UNQUOTE VANCE

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